

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General

22 June 2016

Original: English

2016 session

24 July 2015-27 July 2016

Agenda item 15

Regional cooperation**Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) and Council resolution 1817 (LV). It is structured in two main parts: the first part provides regional perspectives on two aspects of the current global agenda, namely regional efforts in support of the implementation and follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and regional support for enhancing the means of implementation. The second part covers developments in selected areas of regional and interregional cooperation, including additional policy matters addressed during the ministerial sessions of the regional commissions; efforts to promote coherence at the regional level, including through the respective regional coordination mechanisms convened by the regional commissions, as mandated by the Council; cooperation with non-United Nations regional organizations to promote development; and enhanced cooperation between the regional commissions.



I. Regional perspectives on the global agenda

A. Supporting the implementation and follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: regional efforts and perspectives

1. With the adoption by Member States of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, the focus has moved towards implementation at the national and regional levels. To that end, the regional commissions have scaled up and deepened their efforts in support of their member States by promoting a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development: providing policy advice and technical assistance to member States for the integration and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; providing a platform for political dialogue, exchange of experiences and peer learning within the region and with other regions; and strengthening analytical and statistical work.

2. In that context and to focus their efforts, the regional commissions have identified a number of selected areas, in accordance with their mandates and recognized assets and expertise. Within those areas, they have institutionalized, deepened and broadened their partnerships in support of implementation at the country level. That includes signing a statement of collaboration with the United Nations Development Group to work more closely with United Nations country teams, including on the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and statistics; forging partnerships with specialized agencies for sectoral analysis, reviews and capacity development; and building on prior strategic partnerships for reviews of the Millennium Development Goals to prepare and launch the first regional reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals, including with regional and subregional organizations, the multilateral development banks and United Nations organizations and agencies.

3. The present section provides information on the focus and contributions made by the regional commissions in selected areas to support the implementation and follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda.

Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into national development planning and fiscal frameworks

4. Building on their efforts in support of the framing and adoption of the 2030 Agenda by States, including through regional consultations on development goals and financing for development, immediately following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda the regional commissions engaged themselves to raise awareness in their regions of the need for an integrated approach to its implementation and follow-up. Partnerships have been built, including with United Nations country teams, with the aim of facilitating the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda and the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national strategies and policy and fiscal frameworks and programmes.

5. Leveraging their normative and convening powers, the regional commissions have mobilized regional, subregional and national stakeholders to adapt local development frameworks for the implementation and follow-up to and review of the Goals.

6. The regional commissions have engaged in multiple initiatives aimed at strengthening local capacity to implement the Goals. They include developing applied research projects, conducting and disseminating thematic studies, providing technical cooperation and advisory services for the mainstreaming of the Goals and convening knowledge-sharing dialogues. In so doing, they have been leveraging their multidisciplinary expertise and capacity and providing insight into the cross-sectoral transferability of good practices and lessons learned among countries.

7. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is currently undertaking an extensive review exercise to examine the extent of alignment of national strategies, policies and institutions with the Goals. The review will allow ESCWA to present analyses of and rationales for accelerating the implementation of the Goals through better regional cooperation. ESCWA has also worked on synergizing development recommendations with the implementation of the Goals, specifically in committing itself to following up on and reviewing national development planning recommendations and guidelines developed in the framework of the Partnership for Statistics for Development in the 21st Century. To ensure coherence in its efforts, ESCWA has established a dedicated unit for the Goals tasked with the coordination of its multidisciplinary efforts and collaboration with involved stakeholders and partners. The partnerships aim to facilitate the mainstreaming of the Goals into national and regional implementation and follow-up processes.

8. As part of its contribution to raising awareness of the need for a people-centred and planet-sensitive development agenda and to promote an integrated approach to implementation, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) launched a study entitled "Balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: from integration to implementation". The study outlined a conceptual framework, normative shifts in policy stances, strategies and policy options. It also offered perspectives on institutional frameworks to support the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and proposed specific options for a coherent response at the regional level. ESCAP is currently developing a regional resource facility to complement the work of its subregional offices in assisting countries with the integration of the Goals into national planning and budgeting frameworks and to generate and capture innovative approaches on how to implement the Goals through cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

9. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is working alongside the African Union to synergize the developmental goals and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. ECA has worked to raise awareness among member States of the need for an integrated approach for the implementation of and follow-up to both Agenda 2063 and the Goals and is engaged in fostering the integration of Agenda 2063 and the Goals into national agendas, developing an integrated set of indicators for monitoring and follow-up on implementation of the Goals, rationalizing implementation and report mechanisms and undertaking an analytical approach to convening think tanks, policy experts and government officials for capacity-building and implementation projects.

10. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has recently launched a digital repository for data storage and dissemination, in which a comprehensive set of national, subnational and sectoral development plans,

programmes and agendas from the region can be found. The digital repository serves as an efficient platform for regional actors to access data and identify best practices, experiences and approaches regarding the implementation of the Goals.

Regional forums on sustainable development: platforms for regional follow-up and review, promoting policy coherence, alignment and peer learning and linking the national to the global

11. Building on the mandate in General Assembly resolution 67/290 for the regional commissions to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through regional meetings, the commissions established regional forums on sustainable development. By the end of May 2016, the third iterations of the forums in the Asia-Pacific and Arab regions had been held: in Bangkok from 3 to 5 April and in Amman on 29 and 30 May, respectively. The second session of the Africa Forum for Sustainable Development was held in Cairo from 17 to 19 May. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) held its first forum in Geneva on 10 May as a special informal segment of the meeting of the Executive Committee. At its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico from 23 to 27 May, ECLAC established the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

12. The regional forums bring together member States with other stakeholders, including regional and subregional partner organizations, civil society and the private sector, to follow up on and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the regions. Building on national experiences of implementation and follow-up and review, the forums promote peer learning and cross-fertilization of good practices and approaches, notably on integrated and cross-sectoral approaches. They also promote the alignment of the 2030 Agenda with regional and subregional visions and agendas, thus promoting policy coherence and the optimization of efforts and resources, while addressing specific regional priorities and challenges. In addition, they provide an institutional and well-harmonized link to the global follow-up and review at the high-level political forum because they build on the convening power, analytical capacities and partnerships of the regional commissions. The work of the forums will also benefit from the regional assessments of progress with the Goals planned by the commissions and their partners in the regions.

13. At the third session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, in April 2016, it was decided that, while the future form and function of the Forum should be guided by decisions taken at the high-level political forum, the Forum would continue to be convened annually as an inclusive intergovernmental forum, preparatory to the high-level political forum. Future sessions of the Forum will serve as a platform to: (a) support countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda, including through capacity development, in particular in those countries with special needs; (b) provide a regional perspective on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by identifying regional trends and consolidating and sharing best practices and lessons learned; and (c) support review and monitoring of progress and follow-up at the regional level. The Forum recognized that, while the countries of the Asia-Pacific region were moving rapidly to implement the 2030 Agenda, much work was needed to bring about the necessary transformation. A number of regional megatrends must be harnessed to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: urbanization, economic and trade integration, rising incomes, changing patterns of production and consumption and the development of cross-border infrastructure.

Relevant subregional platforms could act as forums for follow-up and review at the subregional level in relation to both progress towards the achievement of the Goals and areas that need particular attention.

14. ESCWA organized the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development in Jordan in May 2016, in cooperation with the member organizations of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, including the League of Arab States. The proposed focus and objectives of the Forum were to promote a better and deeper understanding of the 2030 Agenda, move from commitment to action at national level and achieve the Goals by addressing regional challenges and priorities, ensuring that no one is left behind in moving forward. Building on the results of the first two sessions of the Forum, the third session presented successful examples of integration at national level and included presentations from member States that have developed new legislation, policies and plans to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

15. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development concluded on 19 May in Cairo with the adoption of a series of key messages regarding the effective implementation and monitoring of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The theme of the Forum was "Ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063". The key messages are clustered in five areas and are expected to support national implementation efforts and inform global debate. They include: transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals; inclusive transformation for sustainable development; an integrated results framework and integrated implementation, including means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063; integrated follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at the global, regional and national levels; and a demographic dividend road map for 2017. ECA has held consultations with the African Union Commission on the modalities to be adopted for the review and validation of the new report on the Sustainable Development Goals for Africa. That review process will be mainly undertaken through the Regional Forum.

16. ECE held its first Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in April 2016, following a consultative process with member States, regional United Nations entities, other international and regional organizations and civil society, to determine the most effective modality for regional follow-up to and review of the Goals. ECE is expected to build a "docking station" platform for regional follow-up and review, connecting policymaking processes at various levels. The details of the platform are still under discussion and awaiting global decisions of the high-level political forum. Member States decided on an ad hoc format for the 2016 Regional Forum — an extended informal session of the Executive Committee. At the session, regional plans and initial steps for implementing follow-up to and review of the Goals were the main topics of discussion, based on the results of a regional survey on the Goals. The outcome of the session will guide regional inputs to the high-level political forum in 2016.

17. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development was established as an integrated regional mechanism to follow up on and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Goals and targets, the means of implementation of the Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The outcomes of the Forum will also contribute to the follow-up to

and review of those agendas at the global level, including at the high-level political forum and at the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up. The Regional Forum will build on the work relating to the agendas undertaken in the ECLAC subsidiary bodies.

Strengthening States' data and statistical capacities

18. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, all regions need and demand new, better and more comprehensive data and statistics. While the capacity of national statistical systems has improved over the past decade in most regions, there are enormous variations between and within regions and large gaps remain in the capacity of developing countries to produce indicators for the Goals. Gaps in the coverage and quality of the data to measure progress towards the achievement of the Goals reflect inadequate national statistical systems that span institutional and resource factors and the scope of national statistical programmes, which do not capture the breadth of development issues covered in the Goals. Areas needing improvement include international statistical standards or guidelines that can capture a significant number of issues, administrative data, civil registration systems and statistical survey programmes and the speed at which current statistics can be made available for decision-making.

19. The regional commissions have accompanied member States in their discussions of the global indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda, collaborating with the Statistical Commission to establish regional positions and facilitate global consensus on the framework. They are also supporting their member States in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

20. The regional commissions have also been supporting the regional harmonization of statistics and national capacity development efforts to improve data and statistics collection, processing, comparability, dissemination and use for evidence-based policymaking at the national level, including by working with the regional conferences on statistics and by providing capacity-building and technical assistance to national institutes of statistics. Those actions are crucial to supporting member States in addressing the data revolution challenges relating to the 2030 Agenda.

21. ECA organized a high-level conference, following requests from regional heads of State to discuss the data revolution in Africa and its implications for Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. The high-level conference on data revolution, held in Addis Ababa in March 2015, resulted in the Africa Data Consensus, which, among other things, contains a set of principles for implementing the data revolution, in which a partnership of all data communities was urged to create a vibrant ecosystem able to provide timely and disaggregated data for the public good and for inclusive development. Besides the Consensus, and in a similar manner to the other Commissions, ECA led the process of coordinating African countries in the development of the global indicator framework relating to the Goals. As the secretariat of the Statistical Commission for Africa, ECA plays a prominent role in building the statistical capacity of member States and will continue its support for strengthening national statistical systems. It is also actively providing technical support to member States on the continent in the development of comparable statistical data across time and space.

22. The progressive consolidation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC as the main forum for discussion and coordination between national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean has been an asset in supporting the above-mentioned global processes and efforts and in channelling ECLAC technical assistance and capacity development efforts to its member States. That will continue to be the case as they implement the agenda and establish mechanisms to follow up on and review progress. Furthermore, ECLAC has agreed to work on non-traditional data sources. That kind of participation in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is the expression of a new approach to data and indicators in the context of the data revolution. Lastly, ECLAC has collaborated on several inter-agency documents on the gaps remaining for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and intends to tap into the experience acquired from the Millennium Development Goals to continue to support member States in the follow-up to and review of activities for the Sustainable Development Goals.

23. In addition to joining the other regional commissions in support of the global processes and efforts on indicators and capacity-building, ESCWA has focused its efforts on four aspects:

(a) Comprehensive assessments of national statistical systems, focusing on the surveys, censuses and other operations in thematic areas, the technical infrastructure, institutional and legal frameworks and coordination between producers of official statistics at the national level;

(b) Assisting member States in formulating national strategies for the development of statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda, taking into account also the specific needs of vulnerable States;

(c) Guiding national statistical offices towards the use of available alternative data sources to cover increased and increasing demand for statistical data by policymakers and other users;

(d) Advising national statistical systems on establishing national frameworks of indicators for follow-up to and review of the agreed development goals and priorities of national development strategies.

24. ECE works with partners to support the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Goals in the region and develop measurements of sustainable development by streamlining statistical work in the region in connection with the Goals; developing methods, standards and guidance to enhance the quality and comparability of statistics and monitoring of the Goals; and building capacity for reporting on indicators and supporting countries in the compilation and reporting of indicators for the Goals in the region. In particular, it develops standards and tools to modernize statistical production and find efficiencies so that statistical offices can respond to new information needs and the challenge of reporting on the Goals. The global assessments of national statistical systems in countries in South-East Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia provide an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of the institutional, organizational and technical capacity of the countries to produce official statistics that are internationally acceptable. Those assessments provide detailed recommendations for the sustainable development of national statistical systems. In addition, ECE works with member States to build

their capacity to develop statistical systems that significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data.

25. Based on the 2015 ESCAP statistics database, it is estimated that less than one third of the indicators for the Goals can be produced by countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Gaps and areas in need of improvement have been identified that are similar to those set out above. Furthermore, at its fourth session the ESCAP Committee on Statistics identified priorities for addressing the implications of the 2030 Agenda for statistical development in the region. ESCAP will support member States in political commitment, capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and global statistical methodological development. It is also working to find solutions to data gaps and capitalize on existing and upcoming networks and partnerships. In addition, it has established an expert group of statisticians and disaster risk reduction experts to develop a regionally agreed basic range of disaster statistics and a disaster-related statistics framework.

B. Enhancing the means of implementation in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: regional efforts and perspectives

26. In addition to supporting the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda, the regional commissions also work to enhance the capacities and means of implementation of their member States regarding commitments under the 2030 Agenda.

Identifying and promoting innovative sources of financing

27. As mandated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the regional commissions are deploying their expertise in support of the national resource mobilization of member States for financing for development, while continuing to analyse the international and regional contexts and factors affecting such mobilization efforts. They have been promoting regional cooperation as a means of shaping a conducive, enabling environment for national resource mobilization, including through the holding of regional forums and seminars on financing for development and tax cooperation. They have also initiated processes and analysis to follow up on and review commitments made thus far in the financing for development agenda.

28. ESCAP held the first follow-up regional consultation on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on 30 and 31 March 2016 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. Participants underscored the significance of regional platforms and the need to foster regional cooperation and partnerships in financing for development. They recognized a need to establish an inclusive, participatory and broad-based regional tax forum for sustainable development. ESCAP was requested to take stock of approaches to financing infrastructure in the region, support knowledge-sharing on policies and practices for financing infrastructure, including public-private partnerships, and harness financial inclusion policies to support sustainable development. A critical issue in the discussions was the need to strengthen and develop national and regional capital markets to meet the long-term financing requirements for investment in sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. In preparation for the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, ESCAP also organized a regional seminar on transformative financing for the

achievement of gender equality by 2030, held on 18 and 19 February 2016 in Bangkok, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The recommendations arising from the seminar emphasized the need to pursue a comprehensive approach to financing the 2030 Agenda and explore the potential of diverse sources of funding, including new, emerging and long-term sources, for sustainable and equitable financing. Particular emphasis was laid on the issue of gender and taxation. In addition, ESCAP also promotes regional risk-pooling mechanisms, especially in small countries, and parametric insurance schemes that provide new opportunities to address disaster risks.

29. ECLAC hosted a multi-stakeholder regional consultation on financing for development in March 2015 that served to identify key regional issues, including illicit financial flows, achieving greater equality, closing development gaps and securing funding for infrastructure and social inclusion. The participants also emphasized the importance of gender perspectives. The outcome of the regional consultation served as input for the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in July 2015. In view of the impact of the debt burden on the economic and social progress of the Caribbean countries, ECLAC proposed a debt relief initiative involving multilateral credit institutions and the creation of a subregional resilience fund. It recommended that the Caribbean Community should seek an agreement with the Caribbean Development Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to gradually write off all multilateral external public debt. In return, the beneficiary countries would make annual payments into a Caribbean resilience fund, which could be managed by the Caribbean Development Bank, whose main goals would be to address natural disasters, finance climate change adaptation and mitigation measurements and boost social development.

30. ECA estimated the overall financial implications and resource requirements to achieve its development objectives and the African transformation agenda to be substantial. The infrastructure gap alone was estimated at around \$100 billion per annum, with climate financing accounting for additional costs. The importance of national savings and improvements in public revenue collection, potential revenue from combating illicit financial flows and the significance of private capital flows as sources for development financing are being strongly emphasized. Improving governance and ensuring an enabling investment climate for increased domestic and foreign investment is also vital. Over the past years, ECA has been actively engaged in carrying out analytical work in a number of areas aimed at realizing sustainable development in Africa in general and the Goals in particular. It has supported the work and report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, contributing some chapters of the report and providing communications support and technical advice to the Panel. It also supported the advocacy and follow-up efforts relating to implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. Much of its work built on the outcomes of the ninth African Development Forum, held in Morocco in October 2014, on the theme of "Innovative financing for Africa's transformation", at which the Marrakech consensus was adopted. The consensus outlined key commitments to innovative financing for the transformation of Africa and provided guidance for ECA technical support for the regional consultations to be held in advance of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in 2015.

31. In the Arab region, the discussion on financing for development focused on the importance of financing the immediate need to rebuild the capital stock in conflict-affected countries. A major regional concern was the widening gap between the requirements for meeting the Goals and the existing availability of finance. The situation had worsened in the region owing to the spread of conflicts, the decline of official development assistance from traditional donors, except in response to meeting crisis situations, and the worsening fiscal situation of major regional donors in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council owing to the plunge in oil prices. Some of the innovative sources of financing discussed from an Arab regional perspective included revenue mobilization through pro-poor taxation; controlling tax evasion and tax avoidance and illicit financial flows; harnessing private sector financing sources by addressing investment risks in the region; and identifying new international financing sources to address the limited fiscal space facing most countries in the region.

32. ECE is actively engaged in the mobilization of private resources for infrastructure development and the provision of public services through its work on public-private partnerships. Engaging multiple partners, it is developing international standards and recommendations for policymakers on how to use public-private partnerships in sectors that are crucial to advancing the 2030 Agenda, including water and sanitation, renewable energy, smart and sustainable cities and health. ECE activities have sought to address the existing knowledge gap on good practices and facilitate the exchange of experiences, as was done at its recent international forum on implementing the 2030 Agenda through effective, people-first public-private partnerships. In addition, it supports the efforts of member States to upgrade their capacity to undertake public-private partnerships. Limitations in that capacity constrain their ability to structure public-private partnerships in a way that protects the interest of the public sector.

Leveraging science, technology and innovation

33. The regional commissions have promoted the leveraging of science, technology and innovation regional platforms aimed at achieving development goals. They have produced successful results in several areas, including public policy standard-setting for inclusive access to digital services, student engagement and talent clustering, building early-warning and climate change resilience systems and mapping science, technology and innovation indicators and data gathering as part of broader capacity-building and structural change efforts.

34. ECLAC remains the technical secretariat for the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, further consolidating its role as a regional focal point for science, innovation and technology cooperation. In that regard, the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in August 2015, led to the adoption of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will serve as an important input for the global process of reviewing outcomes and preparing a new agreement within the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society. ECLAC is the technical secretariat for that process, which has presiding officers, national focal points and working groups on various areas of action related to the adoption of information and communications technology (ICT).

35. ECA support in the areas of science, technology and innovation and in ICT policy development and strategic analysis has contributed to the articulation and formulation of policy with a significant impact in the region. It has successfully influenced regional processes through periodic publications with in-depth analyses of science, technology and innovation policy; contributed to the establishment of youth and innovation curricula in 6 African universities and an innovation and entrepreneurship summer school in 17 African universities; supported member States in the development or updating of national ICT strategies, policies and review mechanisms; and led the regional review of the World Summit on the Information Society. In 2016, the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development requested ECA assistance to organize an annual regional review of the World Summit in support of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In addition, ECA has undertaken work on model laws on cybersecurity, has co-hosted a high-level policy meeting on agricultural biotechnology with the African Union and also co-hosted the Science Forum 2016 in Addis Ababa, bringing more than 800 scientists, industrialists and policymakers together on topics of agricultural research.

36. ECE facilitates engagement with science, technology and innovation platforms by implementing a programme of innovation performance reviews in countries with economies in transition, looking at the factors driving innovation, including the impact of public policies. Based on a shared diagnosis of identified challenges, programme reviews offer recommendations to improve innovation performance and enhance innovation capacity. Feedback on recommendations is given in an intergovernmental setting that facilitates the exchange of experiences. The second cycle of reviews was initiated in 2016, envisaging a better alignment with the Goals and exploring the contributions that innovation can make to advance the 2030 Agenda.

37. ESCWA is involved in science, technology and innovation platforms to complement regional capacities and resources, partnering with member States for its Technology Centre based in Amman. In coordination with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and others, ESCWA has been developing an innovation scoreboard to standardize measurable indicators in the region. In coordination with UNDP, ESCWA is developing and will track an Arab innovation index, with the objective of leveraging data to inform policy and guide strategies in collaboration with member State institutions, better assess legislative gaps, develop national technologies and contribute to achieving the relevant goals of the 2030 Agenda. With other regional commissions, ESCWA has been actively participating in the work of the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, voicing regional priorities to leverage international experience and best practices for regional challenges and aligning and integrating science, technology and innovation efforts for sustainable development in the region.

38. ESCAP enjoys ample scope for collaboration with regard to science, technology and innovation topics, thanks to the presence of technologically advanced countries with significant research and investment portfolios and corresponding potential for regional knowledge-sharing platforms encouraging a culture of innovation in countries at all levels of development. The newly created ESCAP Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science,

Technology and Innovation will support regional work for the creation and diffusion of science, technology and innovation platforms and policy know-how, beginning with a study on the theme of "Harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific" in May 2016. During the third session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, science, technology and innovation were highlighted as necessary for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. ESCAP has already leveraged transboundary cooperation for disaster risk reduction in multiple early warning mechanisms for the region in relation to tsunami, coastal hazards and tropical cyclones. Building on that success, ESCAP will further promote and strengthen regional capacity-building efforts in relation to river basin floods, flash floods, lake outbursts and landslides. ESCAP is committed to leveraging its existing institutional tools to harness achievements in the field of science, technology and innovation in the region in order to address the challenges of countries with special needs.

Tapping South-South cooperation and regional partnerships

39. The regional commissions are ideally positioned to facilitate South-South and triangular modalities of cooperation, as well as inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships. In the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, leveraging South-South, regional and subregional partnerships becomes even more essential. The commissions are committed to enabling more inclusive and effective partnerships through regional integration, institutional mechanisms, policy advice, knowledge sharing and capacity-building efforts.

40. ECLAC supports multiple regional and subregional integration processes, helping to forge a common vision for member States in the region and partners beyond. It has provided technical assistance to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), addressing the international financial crisis and preparing integration indicators, and assisted the Working Group on Financial Integration of the Union of South American Nations in tackling interregional negotiations with the Asia-Pacific region and China in particular. ECLAC has also organized high-level meetings jointly with the Union of South American Nations, CELAC and other multilateral institutions and international organizations to discuss the governance of natural resources in the context of target 8.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, i.e. to improve progressively global resource efficiency in consumption and production while endeavouring to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. Lastly, ECLAC complements other regional institutions in assessing South-South cooperation outcomes through reporting, presentations and seminars on various topics, such as value chains and infrastructure, public safety policies, information technology, electrical energy and the regional implications of free trade agreements. Its overall efforts in promoting regional integration include the use of the energy efficiency indicators database to provide evaluation of comparable national and international policy trends and outcomes in energy efficiency. The project is a success, as the Governments of 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries have progressively incorporated new participants in the consensus and methodology of measuring energy efficiency policies.

41. ESCAP leverages the strong institutions and enormous potential for South-South cooperation in Asia, as evidenced by the establishment of multilateral platforms, such as the New Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Silk Road Fund and the newly announced

China South-South Climate Cooperation Fund. South-South trade, investment and economic integration are important assets for growth and sustainable development and ESCAP is consistently engaged with capacity-building at the regional and national levels to support member States in benefiting from partnership opportunities through initiatives such as the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation, which resulted in the adoption in March 2016 of a cross-border regional trade agreement; indigenous innovation and technology transfer processes; environmental protection standards; and intellectual property frameworks. ESCAP efforts in South-South cooperation also address capacity gaps in disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the region. Another successful ESCAP initiative is the North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum, which has met annually since 2014 and decided in 2015 to focus on the role of South-South and triangular modalities of cooperation to explore implementation of the Goals in the region.

42. ECA is providing expert knowledge and policy advice to member States and supporting the creation of an African research collaboration facility that will build policy research capacities by enabling cross-agency and cross-country collaboration between national, subregional and regional policymakers. It also facilitates effective interregional cooperation with the other regional commissions and United Nations entities, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in support of development activities promoting equality; environmental-economic accounting and statistics; mobile technologies for data collection and effective decision-making; and strengthening the ability of small island developing States to assess progress and monitor implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. ECA is also developing a partnership agreement with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, as part of triangular cooperation efforts aimed at promoting mutual African-Arab economic benefits in areas such as inclusive and sustainable growth and social development in support of structural transformation, in line with the priorities set out in Agenda 2063, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the 2030 Agenda.

43. The engagement of ESCWA with non-United Nations regional organizations is exemplified by its partnership with the League of Arab States and its subsidiary bodies. Through its ministerial councils, the League has collaborated closely with ESCWA in defining regional priorities, articulating regional positions and raising awareness of the issues and processes around the 2030 Agenda. The Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, held in May 2016, was a recent example of productive collaboration with the League. ESCWA also engages with other non-United Nations regional organizations to promote sustainable development. They include intergovernmental bodies, such as the subsidiary bodies of the League, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, non-governmental organizations and regional research institutes and foundations. The strategic partnerships that ESCWA has established with those entities are aimed at influencing development policy, enhancing the impact of thought leadership

interventions and building regional capacity and consensus around key issues, in addition to facilitating the exchange of experiences and solutions between developing countries, both within and beyond the region.

44. Through its forum on public-private partnerships and its International Public-Private Partnership Centre of Excellence, ECE provides expertise to develop and cultivate productive partnerships with the private sector and international organizations. The network of specialized support centres facilitates the exchange of good practices, promotes the goals of the 2030 Agenda by focusing on “people-first” development challenges and acts as a coherent mechanism for South-South cooperation.

Translating regional models into global public goods

45. The regional commissions have developed innovative frameworks, measurement standards and monitoring mechanisms that, in addition to benefiting their respective regions, have shown potential as global solutions once modelled at the global level and adapted to specific needs in other regions. Those successful regional innovations are used to tackle problems such as illicit financial flows, climate change, energy efficiency, data access and health issues.

46. ECE has supported pioneering initiatives in areas such as transport, trade facilitation standards and environmental preservation and management. Specifically, at its forty-seventh session, the Statistical Commission agreed on the need to improve climate change statistics and develop a global framework of climate change indicators based on ECE recommendations. ECE experts will also directly contribute to the definition of climate change-related indicators. Similarly, ECE has identified multiple synergies between the Goals and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, promoting quantitatively and qualitatively sustainable use of transboundary water resources. The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, based on principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, helped to inspire a declaration on the application of principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

47. While providing assistance and training on how to utilize software for data collection and dissemination, ECLAC has developed new and improved analytical methodologies. Specifically, it has provided Governments with technical support, training and software collaboration on modernizing systems for processing and disseminating population and housing censuses. Its assistance in modernizing such systems has not been limited to Latin America, given that many African countries also now use the software to update their population and housing information online. ECLAC has also worked with the World Food Programme (WFP) in developing an innovative methodology to analyse nutritional problems and the social and economic costs of both malnutrition and excess weight. That methodology has led to a partnership, with the African Union Commission, ECA and WFP working with ECLAC to adapt the methodology used in the study on the cost of hunger currently being conducted in seven African countries.

48. ECA was the first to recognize the magnitude of the negative impact illicit financial flows have on development programmes, funding and the governance agenda in Africa. It provided technical assistance on illicit financial flows to the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa during the fourth Joint

Annual Meeting of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in 2011. ECA efforts were fruitful, given that the resulting report was submitted to the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, in 2015, and a subsequent special declaration on illicit financial flows was issued, affirming the efforts of African Governments to curtail such flows. Increasingly, awareness of the importance of the issue of illicit financial flows is being mainstreamed at the global level.

II. Developments in selected areas of regional and interregional cooperation

A. Additional policy issues addressed by the regional commissions at their ministerial sessions and other high-level meetings

49. Beyond contributions and processes directly related to the 2030 Agenda, the regional commissions develop, promote and participate in cooperation efforts regarding diverse regional policy issues. High-level activities of the commissions have directly or indirectly supported sustainable patterns of production and consumption, climate change action, strategic advice on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, integration of the Goal targets into national priority frameworks and mainstreamed awareness of common challenges within groups of developing countries with special needs.

50. During the second meeting of the Executive Committee of ESCWA, in 2015, member States adopted the ESCWA strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda, formalizing the commitment made by the Commission to supporting its member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A technical unit has been created to ensure coordination and coherence in its support for member States. Furthermore, ESCWA will prepare periodic reports on activities that provide support for incorporation of the Goals into national development plans; enhance statistical systems; contribute to monitoring and follow-up processes in the Arab region; and assist in the preparation of follow-up reports using official data.

51. ECLAC has further collaborated with strategic partners, such as the French Environment and Energy Management Agency, UNEP, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, ECE, the World Resources Institute and the signatories of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, on the development of a regional agreement, supporting the negotiating committee and preparing preliminary instruments. The success of the process is visible in the increase in the number of States that have joined in signing the Declaration, from 10 to 20 in two years, and in the growing public awareness and interest exemplified by greatly increased participation in regional public mechanisms from 200 participants in 2013 to 1,600 by the end of 2015. In addition, ECLAC has supported the Paris Agreement process, organizing informal meetings and bridging regional differences, allowing the 33 ECLAC members to share 21 common positions during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, contributing to a consensus on climate change negotiations and action on Goal 13 within the region. Lastly, ECLAC regional

cooperation efforts have produced positive results and met expectations of partners and donors in providing support and technical assistance towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The evaluation of two multi-year programmes carried out during 2014-2015 confirmed the effect and effectiveness of ECLAC initiatives in cooperation processes and target thematic areas.^{1,2}

52. At the third session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, ESCAP member States suggested a regional road map for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Parameters were agreed on to guide the development of the road map, namely that it should serve to enhance cooperation at the regional level; that it would put particular emphasis on developing countries, especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other countries with special needs, while maintaining the universality of the 2030 Agenda and taking into account different national contexts; and that, by 2017, member States would identify priority areas and practical means of implementation. For the last-mentioned aspect, ESCAP has already initiated needs assessments and gap analyses through multi-stakeholder consultations. Furthermore, at its fourth session, held in March 2016, the ESCAP Committee on Social Development underscored the importance of integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, noting priority issues for action, including supporting the school-to-work transition for young people, gender equality, rights for older persons and persons with disabilities and strengthening positive links between migration and development.

B. Promoting coherence at the regional level through the regional coordination mechanisms

53. The regional commissions, working through their regional coordination mechanisms, have striven to promote collaboration and increase coordination and policy coherence among United Nations entities and development programmes at the regional level. The regional coordination mechanisms mandated by the Economic and Social Council and convened by the commissions in all regions continue to prove their critical role in providing a bridge between the organizations of the United Nations system and non-United Nations regional and subregional organizations, forging policy coherence and the alignment of efforts in the regions. The mechanisms have also employed distinct and innovative approaches to the implementation of the Goals and in promoting knowledge- and experience-sharing among member organizations.

54. ECA has worked through the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to raise awareness of the implementation of the Goals, aligning and synergizing common regional goals with the implementation of the Goals, setting up capacity-building and technical assistance programmes and developing studies on programmes for finance and food security. Specifically, ECA has aligned the

¹ ECLAC, *Evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) y la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) 2010-2012. Informe de evaluación* (December 2014).

² ECLAC, *Review of the German Bilateral Technical Cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*. Final assessment report (Santiago, January 2016).

clusters of the Mechanism with the strategic outcomes of Agenda 2063, committing itself to harmonizing a 10-year capacity-building plan and establishing an all-inclusive and results-oriented regional development cooperation framework. ECA has also increased the number of joint capacity-building projects at both regional and subregional levels within the Mechanism. Furthermore, it has produced a study on the feasibility of a self-financing mechanism for regional integration and developed a regional food security programme covering six countries in East Africa to mainstream intelligent transport systems in infrastructure corridors.

55. ESCWA and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for the Arab region met in November 2015 in Cairo to agree on issues, including the adaptation and adoption of the 2030 Agenda, migration and forced displacement. The States members of the Mechanism agreed to undertake coordinated capacity-building activities and disseminate knowledge on issues such as mainstreaming the Goals into national development plans and fiscal frameworks, bridging humanitarian assistance and long-term development, addressing cross-border challenges and tailoring local indicators to measure implementation of the Goals. The Mechanism also produced a situation report on international migration in 2015 to track migration patterns and highlight developments in migration governance. In addition, the Mechanism has created a working group on climate change and a general working group on the 2030 Agenda to coordinate efforts on sustainable development, finance development, promote South-South cooperation and develop a regional data base of indicators for the Goals for future follow-up and tracking.

56. ECE and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Europe and Central Asia link and integrate activities related to the Goals at regional, subregional and national levels. Recently, work within the Mechanism has further intensified, along with the process of shaping cross-sectoral and integrated Goals. Specifically, the Mechanism is working to position itself strategically as a hub for joint efforts on the implementation and follow-up, advocacy and analysis of the Goals and as a platform for issue-based coalitions that involve non-United Nations partners. During a meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey, in December 2015, the Mechanism leveraged the opportunity to agree on priority actions, including strengthening joint analytical approaches; forging partnerships and intensifying joint advocacy; promoting policy universality; supporting the leveraging of resources, including resource mobilization; strengthening capacities for monitoring and review; and intensifying collaboration between the regional commissions and United Nations country teams.

57. ESCAP has worked to increase regional and international policy and coherence of implementation of the Goals through thematic working groups of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, analysing policy and advocacy work, sharing information, conducting joint programming and supporting partners through analytical, normative and advocacy products. Civil society groups, the United Nations Development Group and other specialized agencies have worked in collaboration with the Mechanism to mainstream policy implementation. Specifically, the Mechanism has worked on the development of a core set of regional gender indicators as a guideline for its members, has produced the *Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2015: Migrants' Contributions to Development*, a report on migration trends, good practices on migration policies and the protection of migrant rights. In addition, ESCAP has also finalized through the Mechanism a regional report on youth. To mainstream the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, ESCAP has worked to reposition the thematic working groups

that were formerly driven by the Millennium Development Goals towards integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into the national policy frameworks of the Governments in the region.

58. ECLAC leveraged the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Latin America and the Caribbean to support preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development by gathering together agencies, funds and programmes, together with other relevant partners and stakeholders. Participants agreed on the importance of mainstreaming gender into the indicators for the Goals; on funding needs going beyond official development assistance and public financing; and on the importance of collaborating with private investors. Deliberations were also held in the context of the Mechanism to support and coordinate the implementation and follow-up efforts on the Goals and debate the long-term positioning of the United Nations development system within the region.

C. Enhanced cooperation between the regional commissions

59. Since the previous report, the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions have met five times: twice in July 2015 on the margins of their annual dialogue with the Economic and Social Council in New York and at the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa; twice in September 2015 on the occasion of the annual coordination meeting hosted by ESCWA in Beirut and on the margins of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in New York; and once in October 2015 on the margins of their annual dialogue with the Second Committee of the General Assembly. Those meetings have proved crucial in forging coordinated positions and strategic responses to the deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, including through papers articulating the role and assets of the commissions in supporting the implementation and follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda by States. They were also useful in coordinating joint activities by the commissions on the margins of global conferences.

60. In 2016, the Executive Secretaries moved to a more flexible modality of meetings through videoconferencing. Four videoconferences had been held by the end of May 2016 to deliberate on collective responses to global developments and coordinated representation at global meetings relating to the follow-up to and review of the Goals and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Those included the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development, the Global Infrastructure Forum, high-level events organized by the President of the General Assembly and segments of the Economic and Social Council. Exchanges of information and experiences in supporting the implementation and follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda in the regions were also held during the videoconferences, as were exchanges in support of other global processes, such as the preparatory processes for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, to be held in Quito in October 2016.

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
13 June 2016

Original: English

2016 session

24 July 2015-27 July 2016

Agenda item 15

Regional cooperation**Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields****Report of the Secretary-General****Addendum**

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains information on resolutions and decisions adopted at the second meeting of the Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, held in Amman from 14 to 16 December 2015, the forty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 April 2016, the seventy-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 May 2016, and the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016. The full texts of the resolutions are available at www.regionalcommissions.org/our-work/regional-commissions-sessions-resolutions-and-decisions.



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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

1. At its second meeting, held in Amman from 14 to 16 December 2015, the Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia adopted resolution 322, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution I

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its second meeting, held in Amman from 14 to 16 December 2015, of resolution 322 on the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is annexed to the present resolution,

Endorses the strategy and plan of action proposed by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Annex

Resolution 322

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Executive Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ which was adopted by world leaders at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolution 305 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012 on sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and resolution 314 (XXVIII) of 18 September 2014 on the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development,

Commending efforts made by the Arab States to achieve sustainable development and those of the Commission in that regard,

1. *Adopts the strategy and plan of action² proposed by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;*

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

² Available at www.regionalcommissions.org/ESCWAstrategy.pdf.

2. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to implement the strategy and plan of action and to submit periodic reports on the activities carried out to that end, in particular support for member States to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals into their national development plans, support for statistical systems, regional follow-up processes, such as the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, monitoring progress made in the Arab region towards achievement of the Goals and the preparation of regional follow-up reports using official data;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat of the Commission to take all necessary measures, including the provision of human and financial resources and the creation of a technical unit attached to it, for that purpose;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to harmonize the strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 with the present resolution.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

2. At its seventy-second session, held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 May 2016, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted resolution 72/6, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution II

Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-second session, held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 May 2016, of resolution 72/6 on committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which is annexed to the present resolution,

Endorses the actions requested by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in paragraph 7 of resolution 72/6.

Annex

Resolution 72/6

Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/214 of 19 December 2014, in which the Assembly acknowledged, inter alia, the importance of the regional dimensions of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional

commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other stakeholders, as contained in Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Recalling further resolution 71/1 of 29 May 2015 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, entitled "Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda", in which the Commission recognized the need for it to continue to adapt and respond to the evolving development challenges and opportunities within the Asia-Pacific region,

Recalling Commission resolution 71/5 of 29 May 2015, in which it recognized a number of priorities and recommendations as the region's contribution to the preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, and noting the contributions of the Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing, which was held in Jakarta on 10 and 11 June 2014, and of the Asia-Pacific High-level Consultation on Financing for Development, which was held in Jakarta on 29 and 30 April 2015,

Noting the diversity of Asia-Pacific countries in terms of geography, population, income and level of development, coupled with the complex, multisectoral and integrated dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, which calls for strengthening capacities in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and regional cooperation,

Noting also that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources,

Having considered the report of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on its third session,¹

1. *Calls upon* member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to cooperate at the regional level in the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, as provided for by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on its third session, and decides to implement the recommendations contained therein, while recognizing in this regard the importance of finalizing the form, function and modalities of the Forum, as well as of developing the regional road map;

3. *Recognizes* the role of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in providing advice and guidance to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, as appropriate, on the organization of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017;

¹ E/ESCAP/72/16.

4. *Invites* members and associate members of the Commission to identify priority areas of cooperation on and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific, with particular emphasis on the practical means of implementation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Encourages* all members and associate members to actively engage in the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and to continue to work on the development of the regional road map for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

6. *Notes* the regional discussions on financing for development in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular those that took place at the first High-level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 30 and 31 March 2016;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and provide annual updates and recommendations to member States, including through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(b) To support the process to define a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda and to address challenges to its achievement in Asia and the Pacific, pursuant to the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, as contained in its report;

(c) To strengthen support to member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in an integrated approach, inter alia, with analytical products, technical services and capacity-building initiatives through knowledge-sharing products and platforms, and to enhance data and statistical capacities;

(d) To continue to provide capacity-building opportunities to member States, leveraging existing expertise and its intergovernmental forum to contribute to the strengthening of their capacity, including through support for mainstreaming financing for development issues in areas such as domestic resource mobilization, as well as through support for their efforts in developing integrated approaches, models and tools in enhancing their regional cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals with a special emphasis on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

8. *Calls upon* all development partners, in particular the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system, to collaborate with the Commission in promoting sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, through all appropriate mechanisms, including through active participation in Commission sessions, enhanced cooperation on projects and policies and the sharing of good practices through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

9. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary, as convener of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, to strengthen and promote communication, cooperation and collaboration among the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific and other stakeholders, as appropriate, in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by member States, in particular least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

3. At its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean approved the following draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

Draft resolution III

Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, of resolution 700 (XXXVI), entitled "Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development",

Endorses the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, as set out in resolution 700 (XXXVI) and the annex thereto, which are annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Resolution 700 (XXXVI)

Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 695 (PLEN.16-E) of 16 April 2015, adopted by the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its sixteenth extraordinary session, held in Santiago on 16 April 2015, in which the Committee decided to launch a regional consultation process aimed at establishing a forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, in 2016,

Recalling also resolution 696 (PLEN.31) of 28 April 2016, adopted by the Committee of the Whole at its thirty-first session, held in New York on 28 April 2016, in which the countries welcomed the successful conclusion of the regional consultation process aimed at establishing a forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development,

Having examined the draft report on the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole,

Decides to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, in accordance with the outcome of the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex to resolution 700 (XXXVI)

Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 695 (PLEN.16-E) of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through which, inter alia, a regional consultation process was launched with the aim of establishing a forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable development at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, in 2016,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and reaffirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, encourages all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage and United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard, and establishes guiding principles for follow-up and review processes at all levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, respecting policy space and priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments and recognizing that the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review will be primarily based on national official data sources,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which, inter alia, committed Member States to fully engage, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up of the financing for development outcomes and all the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraged the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 61/16 of 20 November 2006 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013, in which the Assembly, inter alia, urged the United Nations regional commissions to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which States committed to strengthening the Economic and Social Council as a principal

body in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Emphasizing the importance of establishing a regional forum to follow up and review progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for, *inter alia*, strengthening coherence and coordination, promoting cooperation, providing policy guidance, fostering national capacity-building, hosting voluntary State-led national reviews, identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets, fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned, helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation, encouraging participation of all relevant stakeholders, providing a platform for partnerships, favouring people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability and promoting the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies,

Recognizing that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, for achieving sustainable development, and reaffirming that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our common home and that "Mother Earth" is a common expression in a number of countries and regions,

Emphasizing the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support by the United Nations development system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the financing for development processes, including at the regional level, taking into account other regional and subregional processes promoting the impact of international development cooperation,

Taking into consideration the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries, and recognizing the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the note by the secretariat of the Commission prepared in fulfilment of Committee of the Whole resolution 695 (PLEN.16-E),

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism for follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;²

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

² General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

2. *Also decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be State-led and open to the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries and that it should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets, benefiting from the cooperation of regional and subregional commissions and organizations, in order to guide an inclusive regional process drawing on national-level reviews and contributing to follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the global level, including in the context of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as appropriate;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be guided by the principles established for all follow-up and review processes by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will build on existing platforms and mandates, avoiding duplications and the creation of additional structures, and that, within existing resources, it will promote coordination and coherence within the United Nations development system and invite other relevant regional and subregional entities and international financial institutions to be involved in its meetings, as appropriate, while addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated and balanced manner, and in this regard also decides that:

(a) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be informed by the following subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as appropriate:

- (i) The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (ii) The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee;
- (iii) The Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning;
- (iv) The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (v) The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (vi) The Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies;
- (vii) The Committee on South-South Cooperation;
- (viii) The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (ix) The Committee of High-Level Government Experts;
- (x) The Central American Economic Cooperation Committee;

(b) Other relevant intergovernmental regional mechanisms, including the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America, are invited to provide input and contributions and inform the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, within their existing mandates, on their work related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

(c) The regional offices of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in a coordinated manner, including through the submission of contributions to be reflected in annual progress reports of the Commission and the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; relevant international financial institutions, including regional and subregional development banks, are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum, including through the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as appropriate;

(d) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will take into account, as appropriate, the outcomes related to sustainable development agreed by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, including its Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger 2025;

5. *Stresses* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will recognize the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries and the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries, in order to address the universal character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Highlights* that the meetings of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and that it will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by, inter alia:

(a) Strengthening coordination, promoting cooperation and providing political guidance through recommendations for sustainable development at the regional level;

(b) Fostering the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner, with a particular focus on the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the promotion of sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth, including sustainable consumption and production patterns, the reduction of inequalities, the promotion of social inclusion, the recognition of cultural diversity and of the role of culture as a crucial enabler of sustainable development, the protection and sustainable use of the environment and the promotion of good living in harmony with nature;

(c) Assessing progress on the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the consideration of annual reports issued by the secretariat of the Commission to be based, as appropriate, on the global indicators framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets agreed upon by the Statistical Commission and on other relevant indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring developed at the regional and national levels, also taking into account the indicators encompassed under the operational guidelines for implementing the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as appropriate; all indicators should be based to the greatest extent possible on comparable and standardized official national statistics provided by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and, when other sources and methodologies are used, they should be reviewed and agreed upon by national statistical authorities and presented in a transparent manner;

(d) Following up and reviewing the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway³ at the regional level;

(e) Assessing the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024⁴ at the regional level;

(f) Promoting international cooperation and national capacity-building for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and other modalities of cooperation, in order to strengthen and complement traditional modalities of cooperation;

(g) Hosting voluntary State-led national reviews;

(h) Identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(i) Fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned;

(j) Helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(k) Encouraging the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

(l) Providing a platform for partnerships for sustainable development;

(m) Favouring people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability;

(n) Promoting the coordination and coherence of national development plans and strategies with global frameworks;

(o) Contributing to the guidance provided by the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as well as that of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as appropriate;

³ General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 69/137, annex II.

(p) Promoting, at the regional level, the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and stepping up regional cooperation and collaboration in science, research, technology and innovation, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit, focusing on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened annually, as appropriate, by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission, will be supported by the secretariat of the Commission and will be aligned with the schedules, working programmes and themes of the Economic and Social Council, the forum on financing for development follow-up of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to issue annually, four weeks in advance of the meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, a progress report, which will be considered a regional contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the forum on financing for development follow-up of the Council, as appropriate, will assess the regional progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the basis of agreed indicators and other relevant contributions from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and national-level reviews, as appropriate, and will provide policy recommendations to be considered by the Forum;

9. *Also requests* the secretariat of the Commission to prepare a quadrennial progress report, to be considered by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, consolidating and building on the progress and challenges identified in the preceding annual reports, in order to provide a broader analysis of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level;

10. *Encourages* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to submit, through the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations and a summary produced by the Chair of the Forum, as appropriate:

(a) To the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) To the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

(c) To the Regional Coordination Mechanism;

11. *Highlights* the participatory and inclusive character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encourages the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, and in this regard encourages the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the

Caribbean on Sustainable Development to ensure institutionalized multi-stakeholder participation following the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Economic and Social Council;

12. *Encourages* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to volunteer for national reviews, and encourages the Forum to further develop modalities for hosting them in accordance with the related principles and guidelines set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Draft resolution IV

Venue of the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as rules 1 and 2 of the rules of procedure of the Commission,

Considering the invitation of the Government of Cuba to host the thirty-seventh session of the Commission,

1. *Notes* the acceptance by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of this invitation;

2. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to hold its thirty-seventh session in Cuba in the first half of 2018.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic Commission for Africa

4. The ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 April 2016 on the theme "Towards an integrated and coherent approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals". The Conference adopted a ministerial statement and approved a number of resolutions relating to the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Africa, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council. The full texts of the ministerial statement and the resolutions are available at www.uneca.org/cfm2016.

Summary of the ministerial statement

5. The Ministers, cognizant that, with Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the continent now had the frameworks for a qualitative transition towards a new transformative and people-centred development trajectory that combined economic, social, environmental and other developmental considerations,

acknowledged that the agendas offered a unique opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive and transformative development with equity.

6. The Ministers underscored the importance for Africa of adopting a coherent strategy for the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and agreed upon the need for a single monitoring and evaluation framework and a common reporting architecture that would produce a single periodic performance report. They also recommended that a unified reporting platform that is consistent with the equivalence of goals and targets established through the goal, indicator mapping and costing exercise that has been undertaken should be put in place.

7. The Ministers welcomed continuing efforts to develop a core set of continental indicators to track progress on both agendas and urged all relevant stakeholders to speed up the operationalization of the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Statistics in Tunisia and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre in Côte d'Ivoire. They also encouraged the development of a common platform for follow-up to, and review of progress on, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, such as the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

8. The Ministers recognized that the implementation of both agendas would require substantial amounts of financial and non-financial resources from all sources. Cognizant of the unpredictability of official development assistance, they underscored the role of domestic resources as the main source of financing for the two agendas, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

9. Mindful that climate change undermines Africa's ability to attain its development goals, the Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Paris Agreement by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and called upon all relevant stakeholders to assist member States in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to ensure alignment of their national development plans with the Agreement.

10. The Ministers recognized the key role of regional integration in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and called upon the United Nations to continue its support for Africa's transformative agenda by aligning itself with, and supporting the priorities of, the African Union, in particular Africa's aspirations for a continental free trade agreement, regional integration and trade, industrialization and the related goals of Agenda 2063.

11. The Ministers underscored the benefits of migration for economic and human development in Africa and stressed the importance of cooperation at the national, regional and international levels to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with respect for the human rights and dignity of migrants, regardless of their origin and status.

12. The Ministers also acknowledged that promoting peace and security and combating terrorism are critical for Africa to achieve the development desired, and invited member States to join together to ensure that peace and security are upheld in Africa and across the world.

Joint resolution of the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa

Resolution 937 (XLIX)

Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 into national strategic frameworks, actions plans and programmes

13. The Conference of Ministers called upon the African Union Commission, supported by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to create awareness among member States about the importance of a coherent and integrated approach to the implementation of and follow-up to Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and to foster the incorporation of both agendas into national strategic frameworks.

14. The Conference requested the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to work together to establish composite indicators to facilitate the strategic monitoring of both agendas and to develop an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework that would inform a single annual progress report.

15. The Conference requested the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to call upon the Secretary-General to establish expeditiously a global partnership for sustainable development data under United Nations intergovernmental processes, consistent with principle-based partnerships and as provided for in the synthesis report of the Secretary-General entitled "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet" (A/69/700).

Resolutions of the Economic Commission for Africa

Resolution 938 (XLIX)

Integrated reporting and follow-up on sustainable development

16. The Conference of Ministers requested the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to use the integrated results framework as the basis for producing an annual report on progress in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, which would be supported with information on the status of the data system on the continent.

17. The Conference of Ministers called upon the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and other partners, to take all necessary steps, in the context of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to designate the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development as the platform for the review of progress on and follow-up to Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, to align the consultations of the Africa Regional Forum with the annual reporting cycle of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and to enlarge the mandate of the Africa Regional Forum to include a review of progress, challenges and gaps in meeting the commitments outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

18. The Conference of Ministers called upon member States to formulate strategies to enhance domestic resource mobilization, as called for by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including by stepping up efforts to combat illicit financial flows and to strengthen tax administration and by adopting policies to generate additional resources and to combat corruption in all its forms.

Resolution 939 (XLIX)**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

19. The Conference of Ministers requested the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, to convene on an annual basis the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for follow-up to and review of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, urged the Forum to foster the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and decided that the Forum would build on existing platforms and promote coordination, coherence, learning and the sharing of best practices with the United Nations development system and with other regional and subregional forums and organizations.

20. The Conference of Ministers decided that reviews of the implementation of all regional outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits should be sequenced and synchronized with the work of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to ensure that such reviews contribute to the assessment of the regional implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

21. The Conference of Ministers encouraged member States to participate in the meetings of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held in Cairo from 18 to 20 May 2016, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held in New York from 11 to 20 July 2016.

Resolution 940 (XLIX)**International migration in Africa**

22. The Conference of Ministers requested the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance the production of migration-related data and to undertake studies using the latest available data to determine the nature and patterns of international migration streams in Africa and assess the impact of migration and the long-term implications of remittance flows for development.

23. The Conference of Ministers also requested the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to establish a high-level panel on international migration in Africa and called upon them to provide the necessary technical backstopping to the high-level panel and to report on the progress made to the Conference of Ministers at its next joint meeting. They requested all development partners to support member States, the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa in the implementation of those actions.

24. The Conference of Ministers called upon the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to develop a continental strategy to address the issue of irregular migration, in collaboration with the international community and in the framework of shared responsibilities.

Resolution 941 (XLIX)**Organization of an annual African regional review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society**

25. The Conference of Ministers welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the

overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,¹ which included a commitment to the vision of the Summit to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

26. The Conference of Ministers noted that the overall review of the World Summit on the Information Society has strengthened the role of the regional commissions and that the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit included a call for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Group on the Information Society in coordinating the work of United Nations agencies, according to their mandates and competencies, and an invitation for the regional commissions to continue their work in the implementation of the action lines of the Summit and their contribution to the reviews thereof, including through regional reviews.

27. The Conference of Ministers called upon the Economic Commission for Africa and other partners to take all necessary steps to organize on an annual basis an African regional review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in support of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Resolution 942 (XLIX)

African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

28. The Conference of Ministers recommended that the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning further consider the revised statute of the Institute, based on the approved amendments. They also recommended that the Bureau of the 2016 Conference of Ministers conduct consultations with member States to secure nominations for and appoint members of the Governing Council, as early as is feasible, and preferably before 30 April 2016.

29. The Conference of Ministers called upon Economic Commission for Africa partners to support the capacity development activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and called upon the Economic Commission for Africa to further strengthen its support for the Institute.

Resolution 943 (XLIX)

Proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019

30. The Conference of Ministers endorsed the proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019.

31. The Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to undertake an independent, comprehensive and thorough review of the intergovernmental structure of the Commission, including the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, and its link to the programme priorities of the Commission, on the basis of the priorities of Africa, and to report back to the Commission at its fiftieth session.

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/125.

32. The Conference of Ministers decided to postpone the holding of the meetings of the intergovernmental committees of experts for 2017 pending the finalization of the independent review.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

33. At its seventy-second session, held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 May 2016, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted a number of resolutions, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council. The full texts of the resolutions are available at www.unescap.org/commission/documents.

Resolution 72/1

Statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture

34. The Commission adopted the revised statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture and called upon its members and associate members to provide enhanced voluntary contributions to support the work of the Centre.

Resolution 72/2

Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

35. The Commission adopted the revised statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and called upon its members and associate members to continue to provide necessary resources to support the work of the Centre.

Resolution 72/3

Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

36. The Commission adopted the revised statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and called upon its members and associate members to continue to provide voluntary resources to support the work of the Centre and to consider enhancing such support to enable the Centre to play a more effective role in assisting the member countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through capacity-building activities for technology transfer and facilitation.

Resolution 72/4

Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

37. The Commission adopted the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific and invited all members of the Commission to become parties to the Agreement. It also invited international organizations to continue to collaborate with members of the Commission to facilitate cross-border paperless trade in the region.

38. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to assist member States in the process of becoming parties to the Agreement, collaborate effectively with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and international and subregional organizations in implementing the Agreement, continue and further strengthen secretariat support for capacity-building activities relating to trade facilitation and paperless trade and discharge effectively the functions of the secretariat of the Agreement.

Resolution 72/5

Strengthening regional cooperation on transport connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

39. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to support the efforts of its members on the development of international transport connectivity, promote effective coordination with relevant United Nations agencies and other international and regional organizations to exchange best practices and knowledge relating to transport and transport infrastructure development, collaborate with relevant regional initiatives aimed at developing transport connectivity and cooperate with all relevant international and regional financial institutions and international organizations to further mobilize financial and technical support for the wider development of transport connectivity and corridors in the region.

Resolution 72/7

Regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific

40. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority focus on the work of the Commission relating to sand and dust storms, promote regional and interregional networking on sand and dust storms and work closely with the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa in the process of preparing the global assessment on sand and dust storms.

Resolution 72/8

Fostering regional cooperation and partnerships to respond to the climate change challenge in the Asia-Pacific region

41. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to encourage and collaborate with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to promote the capacity-building of member States regarding climate change and climate resilience through policy dialogues and the sharing of experiences and information.

Resolution 72/9

Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

42. The Commission encouraged member States to promote collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in the Asia-Pacific region, including by strengthening regional cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, enhancing the capacity of member States for the protection of coastal areas, the marine environment and resources and economic development in an environmentally sound and inclusive manner, promoting South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation and collaboration on data collection and the development of environmental baselines to ensure a strong foundation for informed decision-making and policy development on oceans and seas and promoting public-private and civil society partnerships to increase economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources.

43. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations specialized agencies and international, regional and subregional organizations, to undertake an assessment of the capacity development needs of the countries in the region for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Resolution 72/10

Regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines

44. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to continued support for member States and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines, ensure enhanced efforts and linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Summit in the work of the secretariat within its existing mandate, collaborate with international and regional organizations to continue to hold regional preparatory consultations, including through public-private partnerships and meetings of experts, hold a regional review of the implementation of the Summit action lines as part of the session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation and ensure linkage to the global forums on the Summit in collaboration with relevant international and regional organizations in order to avoid duplications and coordinate United Nations agencies and partners in the regional review and follow-up towards harmonized approaches to and synergies in the implementation of the Summit.

Resolution 72/11

Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of internationally agreed development goals

45. The Commission decided that the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific would continue to function towards the successful conclusion of its work and requested the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Committee on Statistics to continue to provide guidance and oversight to the work of the Expert Group.

46. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to continue to accord priority to the support for the work of the Expert Group.

Resolution 72/12

Harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

47. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of science, technology and innovation for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy. The Commission also reaffirmed its own role within the region as one of the most suitable forums in the United Nations system to encourage dialogue and cooperation among member States on science, technology and innovation policies.

48. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to raise awareness among member States on the science, technology and innovation dialogues taking place at various forums, facilitating cooperation and joint action, and encourage member

States to promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships to harness science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in the region. The Commission recognized the importance of access by all countries to environmentally sound technologies, new knowledge, know-how and expertise and the importance of cooperative action on technology innovation, research and development.

C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

49. At its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted a number of resolutions, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council. The full text of the resolutions can be accessed at <http://www.regionalcommissions.org/ECLACres2016.pdf>.

Resolution 697 (XXXVI)

Horizons 2030

50. The Commission welcomed the integrated approach to development that had marked the thinking of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean since its inception, as reflected in the document entitled "Horizons 2030: equality at the centre of sustainable development",² recognized the relevance of the issues examined and supported the general tenor of the document's conclusions. The Commission called upon the secretariat to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region.

Resolution 698 (XXXVI)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean calendar of conferences for the period 2017-2018

51. The Commission reaffirmed the decision to maintain the current intergovernmental structure and the existing pattern of meetings and approved the calendar of conferences of the Commission for the period 2017-2018, also reaffirmed that the Commission's current conference servicing system has proved to be efficient and cost-effective and recommended that these tasks continue to be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary. It further reaffirmed the importance of continuing to entrust the Commission with the task of organizing and holding regional and subregional meetings to prepare for and follow up on United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and sustainable development fields.

Resolution 699 (XXXVI)

Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

52. The Commission reaffirmed the commitment of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to mainstreaming a transformative gender perspective in all of the Sustainable Development Goals and to taking action

² LC/G.2660 (SES.36/3) and LC/G.2661 (SES.36/4).

to fulfil Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the other 16 Goals.

53. The Commission commended the Commission on the progress it has made in implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy and emphasized the need to strengthen work in conjunction with Governments, economic policymakers and machineries for the advancement of women.

54. The Commission recognized its role, through its Division for Gender Affairs, in shedding light on gender affairs and its work on gender statistics.

55. The Commission called for active participation in the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Uruguay in October 2016, and requested that every effort be made to ensure the involvement of civil society.

Resolution 701 (XXXVI)

Support for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning

56. The Commission noted with satisfaction the strategic priorities for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning and acknowledged the importance of public management and planning for development as means to carry forward the 2030 Agenda in the region.

57. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the support provided by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Commission for the activities of the Institute and requested the Executive Secretary to continue to support its work with human and financial resources so that it may conduct its activities effectively.

58. The Commission requested the Institute to develop a training and technical assistance programme in order to strengthen planning competencies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, maintain, update and improve the digital repository of national development plans and prepare a proposal on the creation of a planning observatory.

59. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Chief of the Institute to engage in a process of consultation and dialogue with national planning authorities with a view to identifying national, subregional and regional priorities in the area of development planning.

Resolution 702 (XXXVI)

Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

60. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the increasing consolidation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission as the intergovernmental body that coordinates international statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and fosters the strengthening of national statistical offices and national statistical systems.

61. The Commission recognized the importance of the regional space as a timely and necessary platform for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and highlighted that the Conference is the appropriate intergovernmental body to conduct such monitoring in the region. The Commission requested the secretariat, as

technical secretariat of the Conference, to prepare a proposal for a regional statistical monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda.

62. The Commission urged the international community and the General Assembly to strengthen the strategic role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as secretariat of the Conference by providing additional resources with a view to creating regional and national capacities through institution-building, training and exchange of experiences and incorporating a geospatial perspective into the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission expressed its satisfaction at the inclusion in the activities of the Conference of the analysis of new thematic areas and methodologies that enabled better tracking of economic, social and environmental matters.

Resolution 703 (XXXVI)

Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

63. The Commission recognized that the 2030 Agenda is a universal and inclusive action plan and that the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is the most suitable forum in which to enhance synergies and pool efforts among the various stakeholders in sustainable development.

64. The Commission requested its secretariat to focus its research and technical assistance agenda on the multiple dimensions of social inequality, poverty, vulnerability, social protection, food and nutritional security, social policies and their relationship with the labour market, fiscal policy and social policy institutions. It urged the secretariat to strengthen its cooperation and technical assistance efforts with the various government agencies in the region that are involved in the design and implementation of social development policies, with a view to improved social policy coordination and effectiveness and instructed the secretariat to support the countries of the region in strengthening their systems of social policy evaluation.

65. The Commission requested the secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to support the Latin American and Caribbean countries in their efforts to develop new methodologies and instruments for measuring multidimensional poverty, deprivations and vulnerability.

Resolution 704 (XXXVI)

Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the biennium 2018-2019

66. The Commission adopted its programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 in its entirety, which will become the legislative mandate for the execution of programmes, projects and technical cooperation activities and the production of the publications identified therein.

67. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to submit the proposed budget for implementing the activities described in the programme of work to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration and expressed its concern at the recent decline in the budgetary resources allocated to the Commission to carry out the activities set forth in its programme of work.

68. The Commission noted with interest paragraphs 80 and 81 of General Assembly resolution 70/1, in which the Assembly welcomed the cooperation of regional commissions and organizations in the regional and subregional follow-up

and review of the 2030 Agenda and encouraged the regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in that regard.

69. The Commission noted with satisfaction the report on the activities of the Commission in 2014 and 2015, commended its results-based approach and capacity to respond to the needs of the region and welcomed the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to strengthen accountability and evaluation with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of the Commission to the benefit of the region's development.

Resolution 705 (XXXVI)

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

70. The Commission reaffirmed its key role in coordinating development support for the subregion, in collaboration with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and through direct engagement with Caribbean development partners, including the Caribbean Community and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. It welcomed the role that the Commission is mandated to play in incorporating the needs of the small island developing States in the 2030 Agenda and urged the Executive Secretary to employ all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

Resolution 706 (XXXVI)

Application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

71. The Commission reiterated the commitment of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to advancing towards achieving the full application of the rights of access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues, with a view to fostering the participation of society in the promotion of sustainable development and underscored the importance for the countries of the region of ensuring the sustainable management of their natural resources.

72. The Commission commended its secretariat on the progress made in the process under way in Latin America and the Caribbean towards the possible adoption of a regional agreement for the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, invited the countries of the region to participate actively in future meetings of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean and requested the technical secretariat of the process to promote regional cooperation in that regard.

Resolution 707 (XXXVI)

Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

73. The Commission took note of the agreements adopted at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the presiding officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the resolutions adopted at the second session of the Regional Conference.

74. The Committee encouraged countries to step up efforts to promote awareness of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and apply effective, concrete measures to implement the Consensus and welcomed the operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus.

75. The Commission called upon countries to step up efforts to implement and follow-up on the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean and urged countries to sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

Resolution 708 (XXXVI)

Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

76. The Commission took note of the Mexico City Declaration and the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted at the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean and urged regional and international bodies and agencies working in the area of policies on information and communications technologies to play an active part in the implementation of the Digital Agenda.

77. The Commission recognized the importance of information and communications technologies to sustainable development and recommended that these technologies be given due consideration in the preparation of Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

78. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue working with the countries of the region in the implementation and follow-up of decisions adopted at the fifth Ministerial Conference, especially with regard to the advisability and feasibility of advancing an agenda for the development of a regional digital market in close cooperation with stakeholders.

Resolution 709 (XXXVI)

Committee on South-South Cooperation

79. The Commission called upon the secretariat to sustain efforts for the design of methodologies to measure South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean through a system of satellite accounts and for the follow-up and evaluation of South-South cooperation programmes and projects.

80. The Commission adopted the action lines of the Committee on South-South Cooperation for the period 2016-2018, namely, to share experiences on implementing the 2030 Agenda, promote multi-stakeholder partnerships for South-South cooperation and share experiences of and best practices for South-South cooperation methodologies and metrics.

81. The Commission requested the Committee on South-South Cooperation to report to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development on its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Resolution 710 (XXXVI)**Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

82. The Commission recognized the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action, especially with regard to the contribution made by Governments and stakeholders to the promotion of information and communications technologies for development and with regard to international and regional cooperation and the creation of an enabling environment.

83. The Commission took note of the report on the first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and welcomed the offer by the Government of Costa Rica to host the second session of the Conference, in September 2016.

Resolution 711 (XXXVI)**Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024**

84. The Commission invited member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 into their national and sectoral development strategies and regional development plans.

85. The Commission urged regional and subregional organizations to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work and to provide technical and financial support for its implementation.

86. The Commission requested the secretariat to promote the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the region and provide follow-up through the preparation of analytical studies, contributions to regional and global reports and the convening of regional meetings on landlocked developing countries. It called upon the secretariat to provide technical support to the region's landlocked developing countries in areas relating to the Vienna Programme of Action.

Resolution 712 (XXXVI)**Regional integration of statistical and geospatial information**

87. The Commission recommended that a forum for dialogue be established between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission and the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas in order to coordinate efforts and define a joint agenda for the integration of statistical and geospatial information, through cooperation between these two entities.

88. The Commission recognized that the immediate overarching goal of the regional agenda on geostatistical integration is its use in the measurement, monitoring and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in conducting and analysing the 2020 round of censuses.

Resolution 713 (XXXVI)

Regional follow-up to the outcomes of Conferences of Financing for Development

89. The Commission took note of the report the Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and acknowledged the work of the secretariat of the Commission undertaken in the region to promote research, analyses, initiatives, responses and tools that might serve to mobilize domestic and international resources.

90. The Commission requested the secretariat, within existing resources, to continue to promote follow-up to the outcomes of international conferences on financing for development, in particular the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including by means of technical seminars and regional consultations, and to present the results thereof to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.